

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for transmitting Ethernet frames, said method comprising:  
  
determining a transmission protocol from a header of the Ethernet frames;  
  
assigning a pair of object identifiers to a pair of nodes for facilitating communication between the nodes using the Ethernet frames; and  
  
managing a finite number of the object identifiers.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission protocol is not a standard Ethernet protocol.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the transmission protocol conforms to the CAN (ISO 11898) protocol.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
  
requesting a return of assigned object identifiers when the number of unused object identifiers falls below a predetermined level.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
  
providing a subscriber node that sends a registration request; and  
  
assigning a private unique object identifier to the subscriber node.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
  
transmitting control messages to one or more subscriber nodes, for which each of a plurality of stations is continuously receive-ready.

7. A network communication system comprising:  
  
a plurality of nodes operable to communicate with each other over said network using Ethernet frames;  
  
a protocol identifier operable to determine a transmission protocol from a header portion of said Ethernet frames; and  
  
a server operable to assign a pair of object identifiers to a pair of said nodes and facilitate communication between said nodes using the Ethernet frames, said server further operable to manage a finite number of the object identifiers.